

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1, RFA-NS-22-036)

## Webinar Team

- Program: Karen David, Cory Kelly, and Jim Gnadt
- Review: Marilyn Moore-Hoon and Li Jia
- Grants Management: Karen Molina
- Policy and Extramural Activities: Alisa Schaefer and Dave Owens

For more information, visit <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/about-funding/ninds-grant-mechanisms/RM1-team-science>  
You can also email your NINDS Program Official or [NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov](mailto:NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov).

# Navigating the NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1) Program, RFA-NS-22-036



1. Why team science?
2. RM1 ([Section I](#) of the FOA)
  - Key features
  - Is this a good fit for your collaboration?
3. Application ([Section IV](#))
4. Review ([Section V](#))
5. Next Steps
6. Q&A- enter your questions in chat

# “Stronger together through interdisciplinary team science”

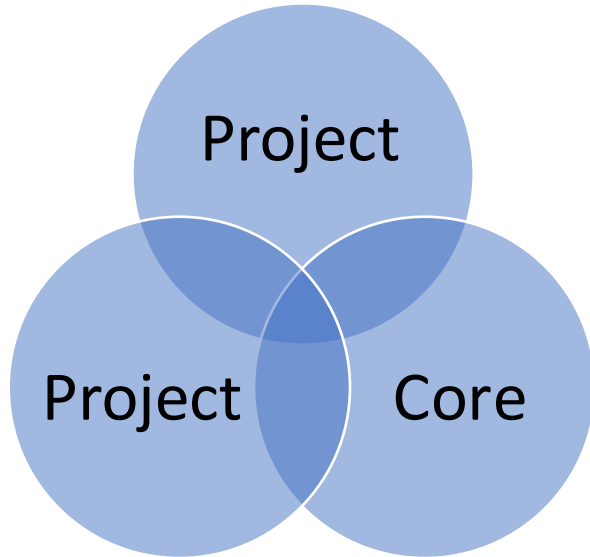


A team science approach expands our ability to pursue **complex and challenging** problems in neuroscience research in a *comprehensive, interdisciplinary, rigorous, and mechanistic manner.*

# NINDS supports Team Science

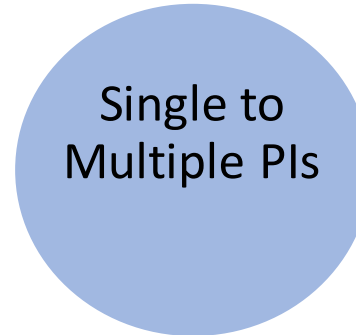


## P01 Program Project



- Projects+Cores
- *Team-specific* features and resources
- Single Special Emphasis Panel
- PAR-21-181

## R01 Parent



- 1 set of aims
- Not team-specific
- Multiple study sections
- PA-20-183/184/185

## RM1 Team Science



- 1 set of aims/Cohesive&Synergistic
- *Team-specific* features and resources
- Single Special Emphasis Panel
- RFA-NS-22-036

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1) RFA-NS-22-036 key features



- Focused single 5-year goal
  - Bold, impactful, and challenging, fully within NINDS mission
  - That cannot be achieved by individual or parallel efforts
- 3-6 MPIs each with distinct viewpoint/expertise
- A cohesive, synergistic, integrated, and interdisciplinary approach



# Interdisciplinary opportunities



- A goal that **challenges existing paradigms, overcomes long-standing roadblocks to progress, and/or develops new synergies between different scientific fields**
- Basic, translational, and/or clinical collaborations with a goal of reaching a significantly higher mechanistic understanding of nervous system function and/or dysfunction
- Challenges in understanding and targeting disease modifying therapies that require collaborations across basic, translational, and/or clinical disciplines
- Scientific efforts requiring integration of previously siloed and/or disparate areas of scientific or technical expertise
- A scientific question that requires the leverage of an innovative combination of tools and approaches
- Challenges that necessitate bridging across scales and disciplines
- Investigations across species (e.g., shared/generalizable and/or unique neural processes)

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1) RFA-NS-22-036: Is this for your team?



- ☐ Topic/Goal
- ☐ Approach
- ☐ Scale

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1)

## RFA-NS-22-036: Is this for your team?



- |                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| ✓                        | Topic/Goal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Approach   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scale      |

- **Bold, impactful, and challenging research that is fully within NINDS mission**
  - That cannot be achieved by individual or parallel efforts
  - Transformative objectives with defined 5-year outcomes
- Not covered by other Institutes, FOAs, or Programs
- If a Clinical Trial, will only accept BESH or mechanistic CT



# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1)

## RFA-NS-22-036: Is this for your team?



- ☐ Topic/Goal
- ☒ Approach
- ☐ Scale

- Innovative combination of fields/expertise from **3-6 MPIs to pursue a *single* goal or problem**
- *Not a collection of individual efforts or interrelated and parallel projects*
  - For interrelated/collection of PI efforts, the multi-component P01 might be a better fit
- For a truly **integrated collaborative project**:
  - Single set of specific aims organized to address the overall objective rather than by individual or parallel PI contributions
  - Most or all of the scientific aims will require substantial contributions from more than one PI.

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1)

## RFA-NS-22-036: Is this for your team?



- ☐ Topic/Goal
- ☐ Approach
- ☒ Scale

- **Shared leadership across 3-6 MPIs** (equal contributors, as reflected in aims and effort) each with a distinct scientific viewpoint or expertise necessary to pursue the interdisciplinary approach
- Scale will likely benefit from **resources for team management** (e.g., Program manager, data scientist; these resources can be requested under the "Team Management Plan" and included in budget)
- Scale will benefit from expanded page limit for Research Strategy (15-page max) and defined Team Management Plan, Timeline and Benchmarks for Success, and Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (Other attachments)

# When is it not a good fit? (Some examples)



- Research **outside of the NINDS mission** or supported by another NIH Institute or Center
- **Translational?** Applications that propose a systematic, team-based plan to discover and develop a small molecule or biologic therapeutic to treat neurological and/or neuromuscular disorders since these types of applications are already covered by [PAR-20-122](#), [PAR-21-163](#), [RFA-21-010](#) and small business SBIR/STTR funding opportunities”, [https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Funding/Find-Funding-Opportunities?combine=&term\\_node\\_tid\\_depth%5B%5D=2468](https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Funding/Find-Funding-Opportunities?combine=&term_node_tid_depth%5B%5D=2468)
- **Clinical?** Clinical Trials designed to answer specific questions about safety, tolerability, efficacy and/or effectiveness of pharmacologic, behavioral, biologic, surgical, or device (invasive or non-invasive) interventions (e.g., phase I, phase II, phase III, or pivotal clinical trials). Such designs should be submitted to an NINDS clinical trial-specific funding announcement (listed on the NINDS website at <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Current-Research/Research-Funded-NINDS/Clinical-Research>)
- Applications that exceed the page limits for the attachments and research strategy
- Applications that lack a minimum of three PD/PIs or that exceed the maximum of six PD/Pis
- Applications without a well-defined goal that is achievable within the timeframe of the grant and through a collective, integrated effort

# Preparing the RM1 application



- 1 receipt date per year: Oct 7, 2022; Oct 11, 2023; Oct 8, 2024
- **1 set of aims for the whole RM1 project + 15-page Research Strategy + 3 "Other Attachments"**
  1. Team Management Plan (3-page max),
  2. Timeline and Benchmarks for Success (2-page max)
  3. Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (1-page max, "PEDP")

*Described fully in RFA [Section IV](#)*



# Preparing the RM1 application: Science



➤ Described fully in RFA [Section IV](#)

Aims:

- **Single set of specific aims organized to address the overall objective rather than by individual or parallel PI contributions**
- Presents a fully integrated, cohesive, and impactful program
- Describes how the interdisciplinary team is structured, and how the represented areas of expertise will enhance the approach and outcomes of the project.

Research Strategy (**15-page max**):

- How will the project challenge existing paradigms, overcome long-standing roadblocks to progress, and/or develop new synergies between different scientific fields?
- Justifies the need for team science and the team composition
- Other required elements (defined 5-year outcomes, environment, rigor and transparency, etc, are described in Section IV)

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1) RFA-NS-22-036



NINDS recognizes that the **success** of team science hinges on:

- well-managed team interactions
- clear timelines and benchmarks for success
- evidence of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion



# Other Attachment #1: Team Management Plan (3-page max)



- Whereas the “Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan” focuses on leadership by and interactions across the PD/PIs, the “Team Management Plan” **focuses on management of the whole team/key personnel**.
- Applicants are encouraged to consult resources to aid in developing effective team-based programs (see e.g., the [NCI Collaboration and Team Science Field Guide](#))
- No sample template, but we recommend that PIs structure the plan with these subheadings (detailed in [FOA section IV](#)):
  - Organizational structure and team composition (*can include here justification for a program manager/coordinator*)
  - Shared leadership, contributions, and distributed responsibility for decision making
  - Resource sharing and allocation across the team
  - Credit Assignment (*must take into account how credit will be shared especially with trainees and other early career stage investigators*)
  - Coordination and communication plans (*should be inclusive of all relevant personnel*)
  - Intra-team data sharing, archiving, and preservation (*this focuses on intra-team data processes, which is different from the data sharing plan that focuses on sharing data to the public*)

## Other Attachment #2: Timeline and Benchmarks for Success (2-page max)



- Includes a project timeline (Gantt chart/table (or similar)) that includes all major tasks to be performed during the project as well as critical benchmarks for success
  - Chart includes estimated start and completion dates for those tasks and should identify the contributions expected from each PD/PI toward accomplishing each task. [For a truly integrated collaborative project, it is expected that most or all of the scientific aims will require substantial contributions from more than one PD/PI.]
- **Reviewers will use this information to assess feasibility and the degree of integration and collaboration.**
- Assessed under "Approach" in the review criteria



# Other Attachment #3: Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (1-page max) “PEDP”



- Full instructions including FAQs and examples: <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/about-funding/ninds-grant-mechanisms/ninds-interdisciplinary-team-science-grant-rm1-clinical-trial-optional/pedp-ninds-interdisciplinary-team-science-grant-rm1-clinical-trial-optional>
- *Diverse perspectives* = diverse background, underrepresented groups, institutional diversity, geographic/regional diversity, career stage, transdisciplinary, or inclusion of community-based partners
- In the **research strategy**, applicants should integrate strategies to advance the scientific and technical merit of the proposed project through the inclusion of diverse perspectives **and** submit a **1-page summary** of these plans in the form of a PEDP.
  - **PEDP 1-page= Summary of strategies that advance the merit of the science through expanded inclusivity + Timeline and milestones + Approaches to assess progress**
- Assessed in every component of the review criteria

# Budget



- Budget limits:
  - Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project.
  - \$10M per fiscal year to fund 4-6 awards.
  - >500k DC needs approval (send us your specific aims, team composition, RM1 justification, budget)
- Other allowable costs?
  - PEDP implementation costs
  - Data sharing costs
  - Personnel for team management (e.g. program manager, data science staff)
- Other things to note:
  - No escalation on any categories, (including salary cost of living increases)
  - Make sure the budget sheets match the budget justification



# RM1 Team Science Peer Review

Marilyn Moore-Hoon, Li Jia  
Scientific Review Officers  
240-418-7776  
[mooremar@mail.nih.gov](mailto:mooremar@mail.nih.gov)



## What happens in review:

1. Applications checked:
  - Completeness and Compliance (SRO)
  - Responsiveness to the FOA (NINDS Staff)
2. Recruit for Scientific Areas and Expertise needed:
  - Applicants can put specific expertise needed in the Assignment Request Form or Cover Letter
3. Letter to Applicants with meeting date and info on post-submission material
4. Score release within 3 working days of the meeting
5. Summary Statements released by April 30, 2023



**Important information you must provide for the your RM1 application to be complete and compliant:**

## **RFA Section IV: Other Project Information**

1. Team management Plan
2. Timeline and Benchmarks for Success
3. Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP)

NIH SF424- Instructions for “Other Attachments” See p R-45

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/research-forms-g.pdf>



## RM1 Review (kind of – but not) like a standard R01 NIH Peer Review

- Review of RM1 uses the same criteria for R01
  - Significance
  - Innovation
  - Investigator
  - Approach
  - Environment

In R01 reviews, the ‘Approach’ criteria is often the main score driving criteria. For the RM1 **the emphasis for review will be on how the mPI team will drive the science AND how the research will be completed in the approach.**

**“Why is the team approach needed to address the scientific issue at hand?”**

# RM1 Review



For this FOA examples from [Section V](#) of the FOA:

**Significance:** *“...to what extent will the proposed program's integrated team research effort be transformative...”*

**Investigator:** *“Is it clear that each investigator is necessary and will contribute to achieving the goals of the program?”* and assessment of the Team Management Plan

**Innovation:** *“Does the program involve innovative ideas or approaches that would be very difficult to pursue through independently funded individual or multiple PD/PI research project grants?”*

**Approach:** *“Does the combination of scientific expertise (represented by the PD/PIs) present a compelling case that collaborative, interdisciplinary research will enable scientific advance?”* and assessment of Timeline and Benchmarks for Success

**Environment:** *“Is there synergy to be gained from the involvement of multiple departments and institutions?”*

PEDP will be assessed across all criteria



## PEDP questions from [Section V](#) of the FOA:

**Significance:** *“To what extent do the efforts described in the Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives further the significance of the project?”*

**Investigator:** *“To what extent will the efforts described in the Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives strengthen and enhance the expertise required for the project?”*

**Innovation:** *“To what extent will the efforts described in the Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives meaningfully contribute to innovation?”*

**Approach:** *“Are the timeline and milestones associated with the Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives well-developed and feasible?”*

**Environment:** *“To what extent will features of the environment described in the Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (e.g., collaborative arrangements, geographic diversity, institutional support) contribute to the success of the project?”*



# Next Steps



We can assist with:

- Evaluating fit with NINDS mission and the RM1 program.
- Send us (*your Program Director or [NINDSTeamScience@Nih.gov](mailto:NINDSTeamScience@Nih.gov)*) your: Specific Aims, Team Composition, RM1 Justification (why does the question/problem posed needs a combined/integrated approach across diverse expertise?), and Budget (>500k DC needs approval)

For more information:

- RFA-NS-22-036
- NINDS Website (Application info, FAQs)
- Email us: [NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov](mailto:NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov)
- Contact your NINDS Program Director
- Volunteer to serve in the study section

# Q&A Session



- **Q&A**
  - **Order of questions from registration and live audience**
    - **Program**
    - **Policy**
    - **Budget**
    - **Review**
    - **Communications/Other**
- **Unaddressed questions- Please see our website FAQs or email [NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov](mailto:NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov)**

# NINDS Interdisciplinary Team Science (RM1, RFA-NS-22-036)

Thank you!

[NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov](mailto:NINDSTeamScience@nih.gov)